

OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS 2019 21st March 2019

Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding, Coimbatore

On the occasion of International Day of Forests (IDF) 2019, IFGTB had announced free entry to Gass Forest Museum exclusively for the school and college students. This offer coincided with the week 18-22 March 2019 and 21st March being the International Day of Forests. United National General Assembly proclaimed 21 March, the International Day of Forests (IDF) in 2012. The Day celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests. On each International Day of Forests, countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns. The theme for 2019 was “*Forests and Education*”.

The Gass Forest Museum (GFM) is one of the largest and oldest of its kind in our country situated in the Forest Campus of Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding. Gass Forest Museum has been engaging the public mostly students directly on crucial scientific insights and thoughts to steer them to help conserve forests and restore biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems. The “*Edu Centre*” of Gass Forest Museum provides an excellent platform for environmental education to the visitors especially the students. Various documentaries on the current themes on Environment and Nature Education are screened to the visitors and students. Recognizing the role of the century old Gass Forest Museum in conservation of Natural History and in educating the youths, the Department of Posts released a special postal cover on Gass Forest Museum, recently on 5th December, 2018.

Extension division of IFGTB had released a social media campaign to raise awareness of IDF 2019 and offer made for the students. It was expected that large number of students will be benefitted in this special campaign on the occasion of International Day of Forests 2019. As expected there was a very good response from the schools and colleges for visiting the Museum during the period.

The highlight of the observance of International Day of Forests - 2019 in IFGTB was the “*Talk to Scientist*” programme arranged wherein 347 students got an opportunity to interact with the Director and Senior Scientists of IFGTB on various themes. The programme on “*Talk to Scientist*” was designed keeping in mind the theme of IDF 2019 ie., “*Forests and Education*”.

Dr. Mohit Gera, Director IFGTB interacted with students on “*Climate Change & Forest Ecosystems*” by moderating a video on “*The Value of Forests*”. He highlighted that

students are conscientious stewards of the environment, protecting it for themselves and generations to come. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Gera emphasized on the importance of Trees to Humans. Dr. Kunhikannan, Scientist, delivered a lecture on “*Biodiversity Conservation*”. Dr. R. Anandalakshmi, Scientist, gave a talk on “*From Seeds to Trees*”. Shri. P. Chandrasekaran, Senior Technical Officer addressed on “*History of Gass Forest Museum*” and Dr. N. Senthil Kumar delivered a talk on “*Insect World*”.

As part of “*Talk to Scientist*” programme an innovative interactive and hands on sessions was volunteered by the Research Scholars of IFGTB for the school and college students. The themes handled included “*Nature & Forest Conservation*” by Ms. Stuti Sudhersanan, JRF, “*Forests & Wildlife*” by Ms. Sakthi, JRF, “*Know about DNA*” by Ms. Muneera, JRF. An Activity on “*Artificial pond making for birds*” titled as “*Summer Vanthachu*” was handled by Mr. Krishnamoorthi, JRF & Ms. Vikashini, SRF. Nearly 231 students of Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan and PSBB Millenium Schools Coimbatore participated in the activity.

IDF 2019 witnessed an overall participation of 16 Schools and 5 Colleges comprising of 347 students in various sessions and events organized at Gass Forest Museum on 21.03.19. Besides this, the week 18-22nd March 2019 witnessed a larger participation of students from colleges and schools in response to IFGTB’s special campaign of free entry to Gass Forest Museum. About 64 institutions (44 schools & 20 Colleges) and 1199 students & teachers mostly belonging to high schools, higher secondary schools and colleges visited the museum during the week.

It is significant to note that GFM had a footfall of 26,200 visitors in 2017-18. However, in 2018-19 (till date) nearly 29,000+ visitors have visited the museum of which 83% were from schools and colleges. Special campaigns like IDF, “Junior Rangers” programme for students and customized trainings for Eco Club teachers had a profound positive impact in increasing the footfall of Gass Forest Museum in 2018-19. It is heartening to note a large number of students were benefitted in this special campaign on the occasion of International Day of Forests 2019.

DIRECTOR
IFGTB



Dr. Mohit Gera, Director, IFGTB addressed to students on “ Climate Change & Forest Ecosystems”



Dr. Kunhikannan, Scientist, IFGTB gave a talk on Biodiversity Conservation



From Seeds to Trees by Dr. Anandalakshmi, Scientist, IFGTB



Insect as Pollinators by Dr. Senthil Kumar, Scientist, IFGTB



Activity on Artificial Pond Making for Birds



Lecture on Nature and Forest Conservation



Lecture on Know about DNA



Lecture on Forest & Wildlife



Lecture on Global warming & Climate Change



IFGTB celebrates International Day of Forests at Gass Museum



P. Chandrasekaran, Senior Technical Officer, IFGTB, explaining the exhibits to the visiting students at the Gass Forest Museum in Coimbatore on Monday. ■ M. PERIASAMY

STAFF REPORTER COIMBATORE

In keeping with the theme 'Forests and Education' of this year's International Day of Forests, the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) has organised a week-long events 18 at the Gass Forest Museum under the name 'Learn to Love Forests'. As part of this event, which began on Monday, IFGTB has waived the entry fee for school and college students.

P. Chandrasekaran, Senior Technical Officer, IFGTB, explained the museum's history and other details in a visual presentation to the students and guided them through the various exhibits. It is important to inculcate the values of environmental conservation in the minds of children, Mr. Chandrasekaran told *The Hindu*.

Ninety-three students from a private school were

the first batch of students to visit the museum under this event.

On March 21, a special event titled 'Talk to Scientists' will be held at the museum where various experts from IFGTB would present papers on topics like biodiversity and climate change, Mr. Chandrasekaran said.

The Gass Forest Museum is the oldest forest museum in the country, boasting over 4,000 exhibits in categories including wildlife, botany, timber and entomology.

The United Nations in 2012 proclaimed March 21 as International Day of Forests to "raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests," according to the website of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. The theme for each year is chosen by Collaborative Partnership on Forests, an organisation chaired by the FAO.

பாம்பும் புலியும் இங்கே ரொம்ப தத்ருபம்!

கோவை, மார்ச் 19 - 'இது உண்மையான புலியா? இவ்வளவு பெரிய விதையா? பட்டாம்பூச்சிகளில் இத்துணை வகையா? என் அடுக்கடுக்கான ஆச்சரிய வினாக்கள்...!'

புத்தகத்தில் படமாக பார்த்த விலங்குகள், பறவைகள், பூச்சியினங்களை தத்ருபமாக காஸ் வன அருங்காட்சியகத்தில், கண்ட பள்ளி குழந்தைகளின் குதூகலம் இது.

சர்வதேச வனநாள் கொண்டாடப்படுவதை முன்னிட்டு வரும், 22ம் தேதி வரை கவுலிபிரவுன் ரோட்டில் உள்ள வனக் கல்லூரி வளாகத்தில் அமைந்துள்ள காஸ் வன அருங்காட்சியகத்தில் பள்ளி, கல்லூரி மாணவர்கள் இலவசமாக பார்வையிட அனுமதிக்கப்படுகின்றனர்.

இந்தியாவின் பழமையான அருங்காட்சியங்களில் ஒன்றான காஸ் வன அருங்காட்சியகம், ஹோரேஸ் ஆர்சிபேல்ட்

வனஅருங்காட்சியகத்தில் இலவசமாக பார்வையிடலாம்



■ சர்வதேச வன நாளை முன்னிட்டு, கோவை வனக் கல்லூரியில் உள்ள காஸ் அருங்காட்சியகத்தில் பள்ளி மாணவ மாணவிகள் இலவசமாக பார்வையிட்டனர்.

காஸ் என்ற பிரிட்டன் வன டது. இங்கு, உயிருள்ளவை செய்யப்பட்ட சிறுத்தை, அலுவலரால் நிர்மாணிக்கப் போன்று தத்ருபமாக, புலி, காட்டெருமை உள்ள பட்டு, 1902ல், திறக்கப்பட்ட பதப்படுத்தப்பட்டு பாடம் ளிட்ட வன விலங்குகள்,

2.5 கிலோ எடையுள்ள விதை, 456 வயதுடைய தேக்கு மரம், நத்தை கல் படிமம், நெருப்புக்கோழி முட்டை, யானை எலும்புக் கூடு என பல அதிசயங்கள் உள்ளன.

பல்வேறு நாடுகளிலிருந்து பெறப்பட்ட பட்டாம்பூச்சிகள், பூச்சியினங்கள் மற்றும், 300 வகையான மண், கல் அடுக்குகள், பழங்குடியினர் ஆடைகள், அணிகலன்கள், பழங்கால வேட்டைக்கருவிகள் என ஆயிரத்துக்கும் மேற்பட்ட வன பொக்கிஷங்கள், இங்கு பாதுகாத்து வைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

அரசு பள்ளி மாணவர்கள் இந்த அருங்காட்சியகத்தை பார்வையிடுவது அரிதாக உள்ளது. வனம் குறித்த அரிய தகவல்களை, மாணவர்கள் அறிந்து கொள்ள, இது நல்ல வாய்ப்பு என்பதால், கல்வித்துறை சார்பில் பள்ளி மாணவர்கள் பார்வையிட, நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க வேண்டும்.

Importance of trees to humans stressed

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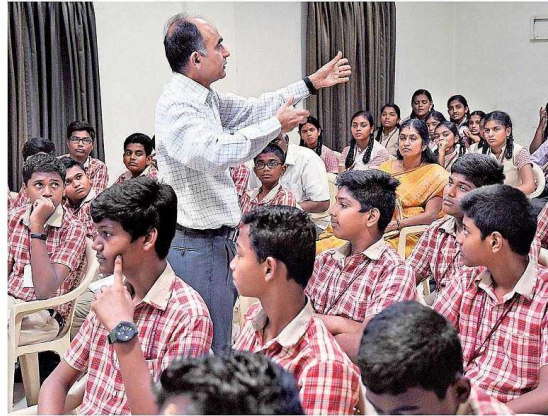
On the International Day of Forests, Mohit Gera, Director of the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), conducted a session for school students at Gass Forest Museum here on Thursday.

He addressed students of Class IX on 'Climate Change and Forest Ecosystems.'

Stressing the importance of trees to humans, Mr. Gera said that trees should be paid for rendering their service to us.

At the end of the session, a short film titled 'The Value of Forests' was screened for the students.

After the session, Mr. Gera spoke to *The Hindu* about



Mohit Gera, Director, IFGTB, interacting with students in the city on Thursday. ■ M. PERIASAMY.

further steps needed to educate young people about the importance of conserving forests.

“Specific films and programmes are required for schoolchildren explaining the importance of trees and

forests. Children must also be taken to field trips for first-hand experience,” he said.

Policy decisions

Mr. Gera said the government must take some policy decisions such as insurance mechanisms to encourage farmers to grow more trees. “The farmer needs to wait [for trees to grow] and there is uncertainty,” he said.

The IFGTB arranged lecture sessions on Thursday under the title ‘Talk to Scientists’ in which schoolchildren get to interact with scientists and research fellows on topics related to environment. Parallel sessions on creating small artificial ponds for birds during summer were also held.